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AN ERROR ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF THE PAST
TENSE IN FRENCH BY MALAY STUDENTS

by

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are (a) to analyse and categorise the errors made by Malay students of French when using the two French conversational past tenses: the *imparfait* and the *passé composé*; (b) to compare and contrast the French past tenses with the Malay expressions of past times; and (c) to suggest some pedagogical strategies. The subjects of this study comprise Malay undergraduates of BA English and BA Malay doing a French proficiency course at Universiti Putra Malaysia. The instrument used is a test consisting of four passages. The respondents have to use the correct past tense of the 109 verbs given in the infinitive form. The errors are evaluated and classified into 7 categories and then tabulated according to their frequency and explained in terms of negative transfer and intralingual errors. The findings indicate that the errors made are caused by the inherent complexity of the forms and functions in French. The students did not perform as well in the *passé composé* as they did in the *imparfait* in terms of forms, but the pattern is reversed when it concerns the accurate use of the tenses. The choice of tense constitutes a major difficulty to Malay students, as the expression of time is different in the two linguistic systems. Though there is negative transfer of the use of the English tense system into French, a good command of English is to a certain extent facilitative. The acquisition of the correct tense and form of French verbs can be facilitated by the use of various measures and strategies.

PENGUNAAN KALA LAMPAU BAHASA PERANCIS OLEH PELAJAR
-PELAJAR MELAYU: SATU KAJIAN DALAM ANALISIS KESILAPAN

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk a) menganalisis dan mengkategorikan kesilapan dalam penggunaan dua jenis kala lampau bahasa Perancis: *imparfait* dan *passé composé*, yang dilakukan oleh pelajar-pelajar Melayu yang sedang mempelajari bahasa Perancis; b) membandingkan kala lampau Perancis dengan cara and ekspresi yang digunakan dalam bahasa Melayu untuk merujuk kepada kala lampau; dan c) mencadangkan beberapa strategi pedagogi. Subjek kajian ini terdiri daripada mahasiswa Melayu dari program Sarjana Muda Bahasa Inggeris dan Sarjana Muda Bahasa Melayu yang sedang mengikuti kursus kemahiran bahasa Perancis di Universiti Putra Malaysia. Instrumen yang digunakan ialah ujian yang mengandungi empat teks. Responden ujian ini perlu menggunakan kala lampau yang tepat dalam bentuk yang betul bagi 109 kata kerja yang diberikan dalam bentuk infinitif. Kesilapan dinilai dan diklasifikasikan kepada 7 kategori yang dijadualkan berdasarkan kekerapannya. Kesilapan-kesilapan ini juga diuraikan dari segi pemindahan negatif dan kesilapan intralingual. Analisis dan hasil pendapat menunjukkan bahawa kesilapan yang dilakukan berpunca dari kekompleksan yang ada pada bentuk dan fungsi bahasa Perancis itu sendiri. Prestasi pelajar dalam penggunaan kala lampau *passé composé* tidak sebaik jika dibandingkan

dengan prestasi mereka dalam penggunaan *imparfait* dari segi bentuk. Namun pola prestasi mereka menjadi sebaliknya dari segi penggunaan kala lampau yang betul. Pemilihan kala lampau yang betul merupakan satu masalah yang besar kepada pelajar Melayu kerana persepsi dan pernyataan mengenai masa berbeza di antara sistem linguistik bahasa Perancis dan bahasa Melayu. Walaupun terdapat pemindahan negatif penggunaan sistem kala bahasa Inggeris ke dalam bahasa Perancis, namun penguasaan bahasa Inggeris yang agak baik dapat mengurangkan masalah penggunaan kala lampau bahasa Perancis. Beberapa strategi dan langkah boleh digunakan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran aspek tatabahasa ini.

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